

(57) Abstract

A method for handling data packets in a network element, such as a gateway, said data packets belonging to a set of data packets. Data packets are captured (300), and captured data packets are processed (302). Captured data packets are accepted (301) for processing or declined (301) from processing based on said captured data packet and data packets captured prior to said captured data packet. When at least one captured data packet is processed, a modification command affecting at least said at least one captured data packet is determined (304), and a list of modification commands is maintained (305), said list enabling modification of captured data packets. Captured data packets are modified (306) based on said list of modification commands, and data packets are released (308). It is also possible to process (302) the captured data packets without determining modification commands, and release (308) the data packets without modifying them.

Fig. 3

I hereby certify that this correspondence as being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C., 20231, on Sept. 10 192001 Express Mail Receipt No. EL 719639616US

Date of Signature